

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A communication device comprising:

a letter string editing unit that receives an edit instruction for editing a letter string from a user by pressing keys of a keyboard or buttons of a controller together with an operation strength with which the user presses the keys of the keyboard or the buttons of the controller for inputting the edit instruction, and edits the letter string in accordance with the edit instruction;

a decide input reception unit that receives a decide instruction from the user;

a sending unit that sends a sender side message specifying the edited letter string and strength information specifying the average or the weighed average of the operation strength, in a case where the decide instruction is received, to another communication device which is communicably connected to said communication device via computer network;

a reception unit that receives a receiver side message specifying a letter string to be displayed and strength information from another communication device communicably connected to said communication device via the computer network;

a font acquiring unit that acquires font information designating a font having a size which is pre-associated with the average or the weighed average of the operation strength with which the user presses the keys or the buttons for inputting the edit instruction and the strength information specified in the receiver side message received from said another communication device;

a display image generation unit that generates a display image whenever said letter string editing unit receives an edit instruction or said reception unit receives a receiver side message, by depicting the letter string to be edited currently with the acquired font for the average or the weighed average of the operation strength and depicting the letter string specified

in the receiver side message with the acquired font for the strength information specified in the receiver side message; and

a display unit that displays the generated display image.

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The communication device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a background image acquiring unit that acquires background image information which is pre-associated with the strength information specified in the receiver side message; and wherein,

said display image generation unit displays the display image by depicting the letter string specified in the receiver side message in accordance with the acquired background image information, and by overlaying the letter string on the acquired background image information.

5. (previously presented) The communication device according to claim 2, further comprising:

a display time acquiring unit that acquires a display time which is pre-associated with the strength information specified in the receiver side message; and wherein

said display unit finishes display of the generated display image, when the acquired display time passes after display of the display image is started.

6. (previously presented) The communication device according to claim 2, further comprising a display position candidate acquiring unit and a display position selection unit, wherein:

said sending unit sends the sender side message in which a user identifier assigned to the user is further specified;

a user identifier is further specified in the receiver side message received by said reception unit;

said display position candidate acquiring unit acquires a plurality of display position candidates which are associated with the user identifier specified in the received receiver side message;

said display position selection unit provisionally displays the display image corresponding to the user identifier specified in the receiver side message, at the respective acquired display position candidates, in order to calculate an overlap area which is occupied together by any already-displayed display image corresponding to a user identifier other than the specified user identifier and by the provisionally-displayed display image at the respective acquired display position candidates, and selects one display position candidate at which the overlap area becomes the smallest of all the overlap areas calculated for the respective acquired display position candidates; and

said display unit displays the display image corresponding to the specified user identifier at the selected display position candidate.

7. (previously presented) The communication device according to claim 2, further comprising a display position candidate acquiring unit and a display position selection unit, wherein:

said sending unit sends the sender side message in which a user identifier assigned to the user is further specified;

a user identifier is further specified in the receiver side message received by said reception unit;

said display position candidate acquiring unit acquires a plurality of display position candidates which are associated with the user identifier specified in the receiver side message and which are positions in a virtual three-dimensional space;

said display position selection unit calculates "a smallest value of an angle formed by a vector extending from a predetermined viewpoint to each of the plurality of acquired display position candidates in the virtual three-dimensional space, and by a vector extending from the predetermined viewpoint to a position in the virtual three-dimensional space of any already-displayed display image corresponding to a user identifier other than the user identifier

specified in the receiver side message", and selects one display position candidate whose calculated smallest value is the largest of all the calculated smallest values; and

said display unit displays a rendered image of the display image corresponding to the specified user identifier, which is arranged at the selected display position candidate in the virtual three-dimensional space, and which is seen from the predetermined viewpoint.

8. (original) The communication device according to claim 7, wherein
in a case where a size when seen from the predetermined viewpoint, of the display image corresponding to the specified user identifier which is arranged at the selected display position candidate in the virtual three-dimensional space, is smaller than a predetermined smallest size, the display unit expands the display image to have a size equal to or larger than the predetermined smallest size.

9. (previously presented) The communication device according to claim 6,
further comprising a character image position acquiring unit, wherein:

said character image position acquiring unit acquires a character image and a character display position which are associated with the user identifier specified in the receiver side message;

said display position candidate acquiring unit refers to each of a plurality of pairs of directions and distances, and acquires as a display position candidate, a position which is apart from the acquired character display position in a direction in a pair, by a distance in the same pair; and

said display unit further displays the acquired character image at the acquired character display position.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A communication method comprising the steps of:

receiving an edit instruction for editing a letter string from a user by pressing keys of the keyboard or the buttons of the controller together with an operation strength with which the user presses the keys of the keyboard or the buttons of the controller for inputting the editing instruction, and editing the letter string in accordance with the edit instruction;

receiving a decide instruction from the user;

sending a sender side message specifying the edited letter string and strength information specifying the average or weighed average of the operation strength, in a case where the decide instruction is received, to another communication device via a computer network;

receiving a receiver side message specifying a letter string to be displayed and strength information from another communication device via the computer network;

acquiring font information designating a font having a size which is pre-associated with the average or the weighed average of the operation strength with which the user presses the keys or the buttons for inputting the editing instruction and the strength information specified in the receiver side message received from said another communication device;

generating a display image whenever an edit instruction is received or a receiver side message is received, by depicting the letter string to be edited currently with the acquired font for the average or the weighed average of the operating strength and depicting the letter string specified in the receiver side message with the acquired font for the strength information specified in the receiver side message; and

displaying the generated display image.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) A computer usable medium having a computer program comprising computer-executable code for controlling a computer to function as:

a letter string editing unit that receives an edit instruction for editing a letter string from a user by pressing keys of a keyboard or buttons of a controller together with an operation strength with which the user presses the keys of the keyboard or the buttons of the controller for inputting the edit instruction, and edits the letter string in accordance with the edit instruction;

a decide input reception unit that receives a decide instruction from the user;

a sending unit that sends a sender side message specifying the edited letter string and strength information the average or the weighed average of the operation strength, in a case where the decide instruction is received, to another communication device which is communicably connected to said communication device via a computer network;

a reception unit that receives a receiver side message specifying a letter string to be displayed and strength information from another communication device communicably connected to said communication device via the computer network;

a font acquiring unit that acquires font information designating a font having a size which is pre-associated with the average or the weighed average of the operation strength with which the user presses the keys or the buttons for inputting the edit instruction and the strength information specified in the receiver side message received from said another communication device;

a display image generation unit generates a display image by depicting the letter string to be edited currently with the acquired font for the average or the weighed average of the operation strength and depicting the letter string specified in the receiver side message with the acquired font for the strength information specified in the receiver side message; and

a display unit that displays the generated display image.